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# Highlighting Success: The Region 9 Environmental Justice Small Grant Program

Fiscal Years 1994 to 1999





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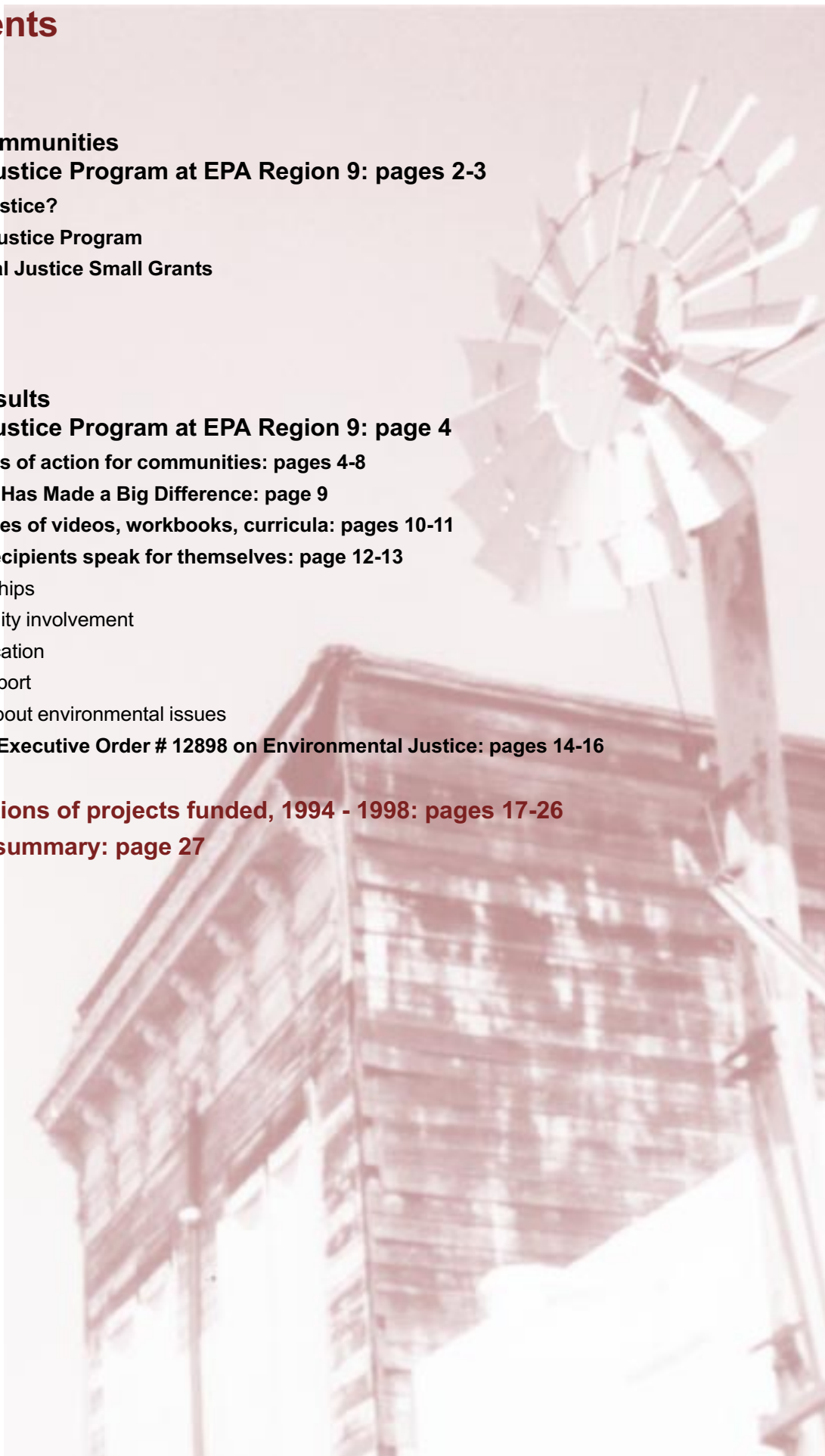
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## SECTION I

# Helping Empower Communities

## The Environmental Justice Program at EPA Region 9



*Executive Order #12898 on Environmental Justice was signed by President Clinton in February 1994 to focus Federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions in minority populations and low-income populations.*

*Environmental justice is defined by the U.S. EPA as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no groups of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.*

- EPA Environmental Justice Strategy, 1992

### What is Environmental Justice?

People who talk about environmental justice imagine all communities having an equally high degree of environmental protection; when safe and healthy environments for people to live, to work and to play in are universal. But we have not yet reached that point. The goal of environmental justice is to ensure that all people, regardless of race, national origin or income are protected from the impacts of environmental hazards. Environmental justice is about real people facing real problems and designing practical solutions to address challenging environmental issues.

Environmental Justice communities are identified as those where residents are predominantly minorities or low-income; where residents have been excluded from the environmental policy setting or decision making process; where they are subject to a disproportionate impact from one or more environmental hazards; and where residents experience disparate implementation of environmental regulations, requirements, practices and activities in their communities.

The environmental justice movement was started by people, primarily people of color, who sought to address the inequity of environmental protection services in their communities. Grounded in the struggles of the 1960s civil rights movement, citizens from many walks of life emerged to bring attention to the environmental inequities facing millions of underrepresented people. Communities rose to sound the alarm about public health hazards which posed an immediate danger to the lives of their families, their communities and themselves.

### The EPA Environmental Justice Program

In 1992, EPA created the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) and local programs in each of the ten regions to address environmental justice issues. Subsequently, Executive Order #12898 titled "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" was signed by the President on February 11, 1994 with the goal of achieving environmental protection for all communities.

Since its beginning in 1992, the Environmental Justice program in Region 9 has grown dramatically. The program currently has seven full-time staff, as well as liaisons in each of the regions' divisions. The mainstay of the program has always been providing direct financial assistance to communities through the Environmental Justice Small Grant Program. In addition, the Region 9 Environmental Justice Team provides technical advice and consultation to community residents and brings issues of concern to the attention of relevant EPA Divisions and staff. An additional critical part of the Team's work is providing leadership on Environmental Justice to other Federal agencies. The team works to make the Federal government's resources available to communities in need.

For more information on Environmental Justice, call the Region 9 information line at 415/744-1565 or check the Internet for a large selection of sites dedicated to Environmental Justice. The EPA's Environmental Justice Web page is located at <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/oelj>.

## The Role of Environmental Justice Small Grants

The Small Grant Program was started five years ago to provide financial assistance to community-based and grassroots organizations, churches, or other non-profit organizations and federally recognized tribal governments that are working to address environmental justice issues in their communities. (For a complete summary of the national and regional budgets, see Appendix B.) The program focuses on ensuring that the people who are most affected by environmental problems can be leaders in identifying and implementing solutions.

The specific goal of this grant program is to support projects in low-income communities and communities of color that are working to:

### 1. Identify necessary improvements in communication

and coordination among all stakeholders; to facilitate better communication and information exchange; and to create partnerships among stakeholders.

### 2. Build the capacity of communities

to identify local environmental justice issues; and enhance critical thinking, problem-solving, and participation by affected communities.

### 3. Enhance community understanding of environmental and public health information

and generate new information on pollution in low income communities or communities of color.

## The Purpose of this Report

This report highlights how EPA Region 9's Small Grant Program is helping to promote environmental justice in communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental problems. Many of these projects fill a gap in environmental protection that is not being addressed by EPA, state or local agencies, or other organizations. This report highlights successful projects as models for communities facing similar problems or issues.

Another goal of this report is to show how these small federal investments in communities yield significant results. This relatively small amount of money dedicated to low-income communities and communities of color has gone a long way towards effective immediate action and long term solutions to environmental problems. This report highlights the progress made in reaching environmental justice goals and the many other results of the program.

The EPA Region 9 Environmental Justice Team also interviewed representatives of approximately 20 organizations who have completed projects funded through the Environmental Justice Small Grant Program in order to find out how successfully they met their objectives. Final reports submitted by grant recipients, as well as newsletters and other products produced with the funds, contributed to this evaluation of the first five years of the program. This report highlights the feedback gained through this evaluation.

We believe this report provides a strong case for continuing this effective small grant program.

*"Working with organizations through the environmental justice small grant program has provided EPA with an invaluable education about environmental justice problems and solutions. This program embodies many of the approaches to environmental protection that EPA is promoting – community-based environmental protection, real-time environmental monitoring, greater attention to childrens' health and environmental justice."*

Felicia Marcus,  
Regional  
Administrator, EPA  
Region 9

BorderLinks





## SECTION II

### Small Grants, Big Results

#### The Environmental Justice Small Grant Program at EPA Region 9



This small federal investment has yielded big results. Grants have gone to neighborhood cleanup projects as well as educational efforts to ensure that community residents understand public processes and environmental regulations or community-right-to know laws, as well as fully and effectively participating in the decisions that will affect their local environments. Supporting these grant projects has (1) helped the EPA make progress on the goals of Executive Order #12898; (2) resulted in the production of videos, workbooks, school curricula and other tangible products; and (3) has created partnerships that help low-income communities and communities of color build their capacity to address environmental justice issues.

#### Success Stories — models of action for communities

EPA Region 9 covers a large geographic area that includes the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada, the Pacific Islands and the Navajo Nation. The issues of concern to low-income communities and minority communities in this region are equally diverse, ranging from childhood lead poisoning, to air toxics, to the health impacts of exposure to pesticides, to facility siting issues. Below are a few projects funded through this program that stand out as successes. This is not a comprehensive list of all the successful projects funded through this program. Rather, our intent was to highlight a few innovative solutions to the variety of environmental justice problems communities face.

#### ***Environmental Justice Youth Leadership Project and Anti-tobacco Campaign, San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners. \$20,000***

The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners Environmental Justice Youth Leadership Program identified effective youth leaders and activists in San Francisco's Bayview Hunter's Point neighborhood. After learning about leadership and tobacco issues, the youth took charge and organized against tobacco advertising in their community, a universal environmental justice issue. The students introduced a resolution to city supervisors that could limit the power of tobacco companies on an international scale. The resolution seeks to apply these laws to corporations unilaterally — in every country of operation. After listening to the youths' presentation at a public hearing, San Francisco supervisors passed a version of the resolution on June 15, 1998. The next round of Environmental Justice Youth Leaders began training in September 1998 and will continue working on tobacco and other local environmental issues.

#### ***Radon and Indoor Air Pollution Project, National Council of Negro Women in the San Fernando Valley, California. \$16,500***

The National Council of Negro Women (NC of NW) sponsored the Black History Month Festival at Los Angeles Mission College in the City of Sylmar. During the event, they presented a workshop on Indoor Air Quality and distributed hundreds of radon test kits to low-income and minority residents of the San Fernando Valley. This was one part of their overall strategy to motivate local community residents to test and mitigate radon and to

#### *San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners*



take preventative action against second hand smoke and carbon monoxide. Improving understanding of the cumulative impact of indoor air pollutants is essential to decreasing asthma rates among low income and minority people. The festival was well attended reaching 300 community residents and organizational representatives. As a result of this project, NC of NW set up similar Indoor Air Quality Information Centers and distributed educational information about reducing public health risks of radon and indoor air contamination at other events in the community later in the year.

***Used Oil Recycling Project, Hualapai Tribe, Peach Springs, Arizona. \$20,000.***

The Hualapai reservation is an isolated rural community located along the south rim of the Grand Canyon in Northern Arizona. The unemployment rate is close to 60% and a large percentage of people change their own oil. For years people on the reservation had to drive 55 miles away to Kingman, Arizona to dispose of their dirty used oil. Some people did this drive, but more likely the dirty oil ended up in the local landfill, on the soil, or in other inappropriate places. Today, residents of the Hualapai Reservation have a cleaner and more convenient option. The Hualapai Department of Public Services established a used oil pickup and drop-off service, a 'kwik pit' for customers, as well as a number of 55 gallon temporary storage drums located at sites throughout the reservation. This project was modeled after a similar project completed on the Hopi Reservation and funded through the environmental justice small grant program the previous year. In addition to serving as the model for this project, the staff of the Hopi Department of Natural Resources provided technical advise to the Hualapai Tribe, resulting in a more efficient and effective project.

***Community Education and Planning Project, Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians, Ukiah, California. \$20,000***

The partnership between the Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians and the Mendocino Environmental Center (MEC) brought together people with very different experiences who shared the land. The tribe and MEC co-sponsored two community workshops focusing on environmental impacts on the Reservation and Ackerman Creek. The two

groups established a joint planning committee to provide the community at large with information and the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the resolution of environmental injustices. As they explained, "many of us grew up witnessing the classic confrontational styles of the various interest groups in the region ... Our workshops fostered a collaborative process and built relationships between the various people interested in the resources and natural beauty of Ackerman Creek Watershed. Including community residents in the process brought passion to the planning process that a room full of professionals could not." One Pinoleville elder, for example, spoke of swimming in the creek with her mother and grandfather. For local people, "this kind of contribution cannot be quantified yet without it the planning process is a simple formula that does not always lead to success — passion, plus conviction leads to excitement, and that, ultimately, makes the process meaningful. The workshop injected people with enthusiasm, they found the spark to form the Ackerman Creek Watershed Committee which did not exist before."



*After the victory in San Diego, hundreds of people marched and hung flowers and blue ribbons symbolizing clean air for Barrio Logan.*

*Environmental Health Coalition*



***The Toxic Free Barrio Logan Campaign, Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), San Diego, California. \$20,000.***

The Environmental Health Coalition focused on involving residents of Barrio Logan and the surrounding communities in critical environmental issues. They introduced community members to concepts of environmental justice through bilingual community workshops and training of promotoras (or community-based educators). One very important issue in the community was the Port District's use of the toxic pesticide methyl bromide to fumigate imported fruit. This activity occurred at a facility just ¼ mile from an elementary school. Since this activity began in 1996 the residents and EHC took a proactive stance and initiated meetings with the Port to solve the problem. The organizers stepped up attention to this issue because of the growing concern in the community about the health and environmental effects of the fumigations. They organized a rally, attended local public meetings en masse and spoke during public comment periods. Prior to one significant meeting, a noon rally was held at the elementary school followed by a car caravan of about 30 cars en route to the Port District meeting. Over 200 community residents attended that meeting and all television and radio stations and

the major daily newspaper covered the event. Ultimately, the Port Commission adopted a Fumigation Use Policy prohibiting the importation of commodities requiring the use of methyl bromide. This is the first such policy to be enacted in the country.

***Brownfields Environmental Justice Project, Urban Habitat Program, San Francisco, California. \$20,000***

Urban Habitat's Brownfields Environmental Justice project worked to ensure that community activists in the Bay Area were, and continue to be, at the table to incorporate the principles of environmental justice and sustainability into the design and implementation of Brownfields policies and redevelopment projects. Nine meetings of the

Brownfields Working Group, which includes EPA and local agency representatives as well as community organizations and other brownfield stakeholders, resulted in the publication of *Building Upon Our Strengths: A Community Guide to Brownfields Redevelopment in the San Francisco Bay Area*. The working group and community guide serve as models for integrating environmental justice considerations into Brownfield Pilot projects nationwide.

***Project Restore, Ramona Gardens Resident Advisory Council, Los Angeles, California. \$11,851***

Local residents of an East Los Angeles low-income housing community worked to educate other residents about local environmental issues, resulting in the restoration of some of the most neglected open spaces in the neighborhood. Local residents completed a survey in which they identified the dirty and dying local yards and open space as a priority environmental concern. Local residents developed a restoration plan during monthly community meetings and organized to have planting materials donated from several nurseries. Residents distributed flyers in English and Spanish to encourage residents to participate in the restoration of the communal yards. Together, adults and youth planted seeds, flowers and trees in the most neglected yards. Photographs of before and after the restoration are displayed in every meeting to illustrate the improvement of the local environment as a result of local residents' involvement.

***Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment (Dine CARE). Winslow, Arizona. \$20,000***

This all-Navajo community-based environmental organization worked with people in Dilkon, Teesto, and Seba Dalkai to recycle their trash and reduce the amount of solid waste they generate. Since many of the residents have little or no knowledge of the English language, Diné CARE developed a Navajo environmental vocabulary and used visual aids. A recycle drop-off center was established and two community members picked up and took the materials to a recycling center in Flagstaff, a 180-mile round-trip drive. The collection program started off slowly in November 1995, but by the end of the project year, the collection increased to 25 bags per month. Diné CARE sponsored an environmental conference at the



Ramona Gardens Residential Advisory Council

***Project Restore, Ramona Gardens neighborhood cleanup***



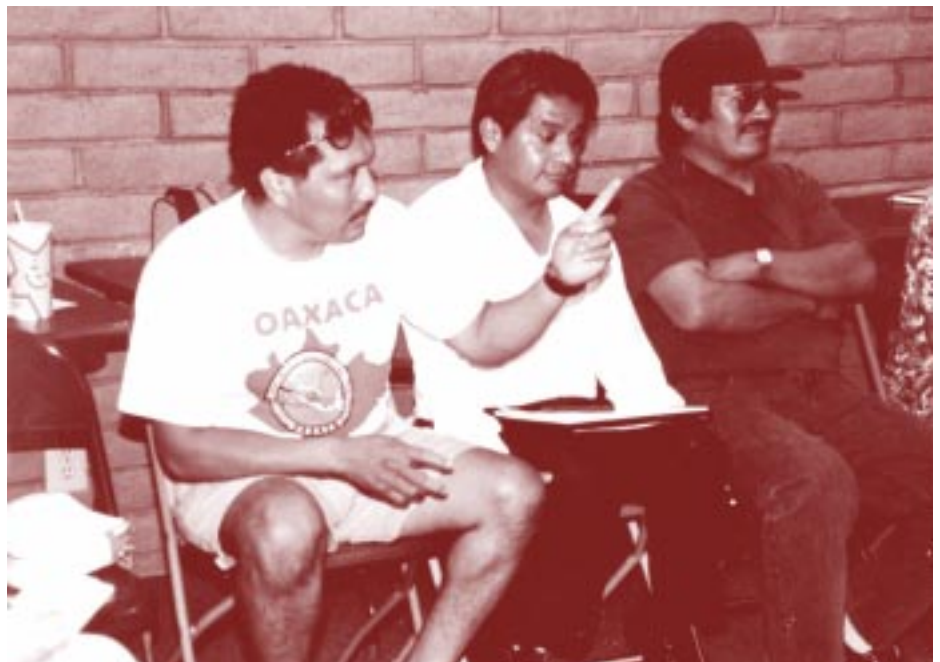
Dilkon Chapter and distributed a survey asking if people considered solid waste to be a problem in the Chapter. The environmental education drive increased awareness of the solid waste problem and led to a further increase in recycling in the community. In addition, through working with the Seba Dalkai School on recycling education, the *Navajo Nation Eco-Scouts* (an environmental education project for boys and girls) was started in January 1996.

***Workbooks on Environmental Justice for Native Hawaiians, Native Hawaiian Advisory Council, Oahu, Hawaii. \$20,000***

This project was designed to help Native Hawaiians participate in the legislative and administrative processes that result in environmental policies. The Native Hawaiian Advisory Council and students at the William S. Richardson School of Law prepared *E Alu Like Mai i ka Pono: A guidebook to Hawai'i's Legislative and Administrative Process* as a sequel to an earlier workbook *Kupa'a Ma Hope o ka 'Aina: Workbook on Environmental Justice for Native Hawaiians*. Five workshops were held on four islands to introduce Native Hawaiian communities to the workbook and to provide instruction for effective participation in the decision making process. For the Kupa'a grant, they worked with the Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Hawaiian Homesteaders Association, Ilio'ulaokalana, an organization of kumu hula (hula teachers) statewide, and various individuals active in the Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) communities to organize the workshops themselves on each island. They held the workshops one week prior to public meetings by a specially-appointed government task force that was presenting a draft report on implementation of the Pash decision on Native Hawaiian gathering rights. Over 100 people attended the meetings around the islands and the attendees were well prepared to discuss the report. According to the grantee, as a result of the comments received at the public meetings, the task force revised their initial recommendations. While the grant is officially "over", these organizations continue to get requests for the workbooks and to participate in community-based workshops on environmental justice issues.

***The Hazardous Materials Awareness & Preparedness Training Workbook, Oakland Fire Services Agency, Office of Emergency Services (in partnership with African American Development Association), Oakland, California. \$20,000***

West Oakland is a community of homes, businesses and industries that serves as a major transportation center with railroads, a seaport, and an interstate freeway system. The ethnically diverse community is made up of 80% African-Americans, 8% Latinos, 7% Asians, and 5% Caucasians. 76% of the population lives below the poverty line. There are approximately 330 hazardous materials sites within the community — 29 of which are considered high hazard sites. The workbook and training program provides a practical approach to day-to-day living with environmental hazards plus practical information for eliminating or reducing these hazards. The workbook introduces residents to the basics of how to do a community risk assessment, encourages residents to reduce the potential of contamination and exposure to toxic materials, and most importantly, empowers



*California Institute for Rural Studies*



*Introducing the grass roots environmental justice coalition to the community. BorderLinks.*

residents to prepare for and respond to emergencies on a family and neighborhood level. Development of the workbook was a joint effort between the Office of Emergency Services and the African American Development Association, with technical support from Clearwater Revival Company.

***West Oakland Defensible Space Assessment. African American Development Association in partnership with the City of Oakland's Office of Emergency Services, Oakland, California. \$19,000***

AADA, in collaboration with the City of Oakland's Office of Emergency Services, identified where hazardous materials are stored or transported in this mixed land use area in West Oakland (see description above) and therefore where a need exists for community training and education. AADA mapped the location of 714 listed hazardous material businesses or toxic substance release sites to show their location relative to residential, commercial and industrial zoning, and schools, parks and medical districts. Community members were then trained in toxic and hazardous material recognition to ensure a safe and predictable response in the event of a chemical spill. The City of Oakland has also

been awarded a grant to expand its neighborhood training program, Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE), to include a hazardous materials and community right-to-know component. The CORE project, in collaboration with the AADA, aims to foster greater understanding and a spirit of cooperation between government, local community-based organizations, environmental advocates and the local citizenry.

***BorderLinks, Tucson, Arizona. \$20,000***

For this project, women from Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora in Mexico participated in a series of workshops focusing on environmental justice through leadership development. One workshop introduced the women to the basics of environmental law in the U.S. and Mexico, the political structures of the two cities, and the basic elements of organizing people to participate in the decision making process. The project (which is still active) will finish with the women breaking into groups and choosing a small, identifiable and resolvable environmental problem in their community to work on. The final workshop will focus on developing plans for larger tangible projects such as recovering rainwater, recycling campaigns, water purification systems and building appropriate latrines in areas with no sewage.



# 10 Ways \$20,000 (or less) Has Made a Big Difference

- Two rural Indian communities in Arizona (one on the Hopi reservation and one on the Hualapai reservation) now have accessible used oil recycling programs.
- Over 5,500 primarily Chinese-speaking residents of San Francisco's Chinatown received information on the hazards of childhood lead poisoning.
- Residents of West Oakland, California have better access to information about hazardous materials in their neighborhood and what to do in the event of an emergency.
- 300 low-income African American residents in the San Fernando Valley have tested the radon levels in their homes.
- Residents interested in protecting the local environment formed the Ackerman Creek Watershed Committee in Mendocino County, California.
- A new grassroots environmental justice coalition, *Mujeres en Trabajo Ambiental*, has been formed in the sister cities of Nogales, Mexico and Nogales, Arizona.
- A school in Monterey, California, serving a high number of low-income and Spanish-speaking children, is now working on an integrated pesticide management plan to minimize the exposure of children to toxic substances at school.
- Approximately 1,000 migrant farmworkers in San Diego County learned simple low-cost techniques for storing and disinfecting their drinking water.
- Youth from Los Angeles County participated in a public process that reduced the production of pesticides adjacent to a residential area already heavily impacted by air emissions.
- The Port Commission in San Diego adopted a Fumigation Use Policy prohibiting the importation of commodities requiring the use of methyl bromide. This fumigation activity occurred at a facility just  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from an elementary school in a predominantly Latino community. This is the first such policy to be enacted in the country.



Urban Habitat Program

## Grant Products

Below are just some examples of materials organizations have created with small (less than \$20,000) Environmental Justice grants. These products represent only a fraction of the work that has been done. Clearly, the benefits of EPA's investment continue well beyond the one-year project and \$20,000 grant! See Appendix A and 'Success Stories' for more complete descriptions of these projects.



*Fish Tales brochures: Outreach on cleaning and cooking techniques to minimize health risks from eating fish. Available in English, Lao, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Cambodian*

### Videos

*Fish Tales: a health education video from the Seafood Consumption Information Project (SCIP) at Save San Francisco Bay Association.* Outreach on cleaning and cooking techniques to minimize health risks from eating fish.

*Kids At Risk: Getting the Lead out of Your Home.*

Produced by Sierra Club in partnership with local environmental justice organizations.

*Environmental Health Coalition Video Clips.*

Clips of media coverage, public rallies, and community celebrations with comments by local residents and organizers.



*Building Upon Our Strengths: A Community Guide to Brownfields Redevelopment*



*Citizens Guide to Enforcing Environmental Laws in California*

### Workbooks and Community Guides

*Building Upon Our Strengths: A Community Guide to Brownfields Redevelopment in the San Francisco Bay Area.*

Produced by Urban Habitat Program.

*Citizens Guide to Enforcing Environmental Laws in California.*

Produced by Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco, Environmental Law and Justice Clinic: The Community Legal Education Project.

*Kupa'a Mahope o ka Aina: Workbook for Environmental Justice for Native Hawaiians and E Alu Like Mai I Ka Pono (Coming Together for Justice): A Guidebook to Hawaii's Legislative and Administrative Processes.*

A joint project between the Native Hawaiian Advisory Council and the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii.

*The Hazardous Materials Awareness & Preparedness Training Workbook.*

This student workbook was a joint effort between the Oakland Fire Services Agency, Office of Emergency Services and the African American Development Association, with technical support from Clearwater Revival Company and the U.S. EPA Region 9.



*Kupa'a Mahope o ka Aina: Workbook for Environmental Justice for Native Hawaiians and E Alu Like Mai I Ka Pono (Coming Together for Justice): A Guidebook to Hawaii's Legislative and Administrative Processes*



*The Hazardous Materials Awareness & Preparedness Training Workbook*



### *West Oakland Defensible Space Assessment.*

Produced by the African American Development Association, in collaboration with the City of Oakland's Office of Emergency Services. Technical support provided by Clearwater Revival Company.

### *Memories Come To Us In the Rain and The Wind. Oral Histories and Photographs of Navajo Uranium Miners & their Families.*

Published by the Navajo Uranium Miner Oral History and Photography Project. Sponsored by the Environmental Health Policy Information Project, Tufts School of Medicine.

*SALTA, Salud Ambiental Latinas Taking Action, An Environmental Justice and Community Organizing Training Manual.* Produced by Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, California.

### **Recycling Centers for Tribes**

#### *Hopi Reservation Used Oil Recycling Program.*

Established by Paa Qavi, Incorporated in Arizona.

#### *Hualapai Tribe Used Oil Recycling Center.*

Modeled after the Hopi Tribe's Recycling Center, the Hualapai Tribe in Peach Springs Arizona established their own program.

#### *Drop-off Center for Dilkon, Teesto and Seba Dalkai.*

Established by Dine Citizen's Against Ruining our Environment (Dine Care), an all-Navajo community based environmental organization based in Winslow, Arizona.

### **Multilingual Outreach Materials**

#### *Multilingual fish consumption brochures and Warning Poster in 6 languages.*

Produced by the Seafood Consumption Information Project (SCIP) at Save San Francisco Bay Association, Oakland, California.

#### *Household Hazardous Material Bilingual Education Materials.*

Sonora Environmental Research Institute, Inc. Tucson, Arizona produced a series of eight educational workbooks in English and Spanish.

### *Navajo Uranium Miners Oral History project: A Traveling Exhibit.*

Audio recordings and visual images of the experiences of Navajo uranium miners who were exposed to hazardous levels of radiation from the 1940's through the 1970's. Produced by Tufts School of Medicine. Boston, Massachusetts.

### *Espectaculo Publico (Cuidate/ Protect Yourself).*

This "Novella" (a Spanish-language picture book) illustrates how a family should protect themselves from pesticide-related illnesses. The "Novella" is performed by a local community theater group and is available as a book. Produced by the Arizona Department of Health Service, Center for Minority Health.

### **Information Hotlines**

#### *Pesticide Drift Informational Hotline.*

Established by Pesticide Watch in San Francisco, California, in partnership with the Community Coalition to End Pesticide Drift.

#### *Toxics Watch Hotline.*

Part of the Toxic Free Barrio Logan Campaign, a combined effort of the Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee, the Environmental Health Coalition and the Mercado Apartments Tenants Association.

#### *Environmental Justice Newsletter & Hotline for residents of South Phoenix.*

Produced by Don't Waste Arizona and Concerned Residents of South Phoenix, Arizona.

*Contact the organization or the Region 9 Environmental Justice Information line (415/744-1565) for more information or copies of any of these items.*



*West Oakland Defensible Space Assessment*



*Household Hazardous Material Bilingual Education Materials*



*Memories Come To Us In the Rain and The Wind. Oral Histories and Photographs of Navajo Uranium Miners & their Families*



*Espectaculo Publico (Cuidate/ Protect Yourself)*

## What we heard — Grant recipients speak for themselves

The unique aspects of this Small Grant Program and the value it has brought to communities came through strongly in our interviews with past recipients. Below, recipients of Environmental Justice Small Grants speak for themselves:



### On the value of partnerships...

"Many of us grew up witnessing the classic confrontational styles of the various interest groups in the region ... Our workshops fostered a collaborative process and built relationships between the various people interested in the resources and natural beauty of Ackerman Creek Watershed. Including local people in the process brought passion to the planning process that a room full of professionals could not. This kind of contribution cannot be quantified, yet without it the planning process is a simple formula that does not always lead to success — passion, plus conviction leads to excitement, and that, ultimately, makes the process meaningful. The workshop injected people with enthusiasm, they found the spark to form the Ackerman Creek Watershed Committee which did not exist before." *Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians (in partnership with the Mendocino Environmental Center), Ukiah, California.*

St. Peter's Housing's Lead Hazard Reduction Program depends on partnerships with other community-based organizations and local agencies in San Francisco's predominantly Latino Mission District. As they explain, "Lead education is transparent unless it is linked with health centers that can provide blood lead testing or housing counselors to assist with lead abatement in housing. Our philosophy is to train other community-based organizations about lead abatement and then they in turn can educate their members or constituents directly." *St. Peter's Housing Committee, San Francisco, California.*

"The Environmental Justice grant that we received for the *Promotoras de Salud Project* was very beneficial. The *Promotoras* held educational meetings for Migrant Education and worked with AmeriCorps to provide training at the Festival de la Salud. Various connections were made with the University of California and national institutions. Some relationships were developed with county-level government agencies." *California Institute for Rural Studies, Sacramento, California.*

### On the value of community involvement...

"Both our projects were based upon community involvement. For the *Kupa'a* grant, we worked with the Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Hawaiian Homesteaders Association, and various individuals active in the Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) communities to organize the workshops themselves on each island. With the *E Alu Like Mai* workshops, we joined forces with Ilio'ulaokalani, an organization of kumu hula (hula teachers) statewide. Ilio members not only helped set up the workshops, but also participated in them by sharing their experiences in working on Kanaka Maoli issues before government agencies. I firmly believe that community involvement in organizing and running the meetings was a key to the success of both projects." *University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law, Manoa.*

"Involvement of community-based groups and leaders was a central component of our grant project. Because the major goal of our grant was to provide a community voice in Brownfields redevelopment in the Bay Area, we could not have achieved this without strong partnerships with communities of color." *Urban Habitat Program, San Francisco, California.*

"The *Promotoras* were community representatives. The workshops and training were conducted in Spanish. We were able to reach a "hard-to-reach", sometimes invisible, community because we trained people from the community." *California Institute for Rural Studies, Davis, California.*

### On enhanced communication...

Enhancing communication between the community residents and local, state, and federal governments was a common goal for many organizations.

"In reviewing the grants for this evaluation we were struck by how the communication skills of the community have increased and by how each grant project built on the accomplishments of the last. Since we are working in communities with a large, mono-lingual Spanish population, facilitating communication between them and the predominantly mono-lingual English officials was an important part of the work." *Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, California.*



"This grant is strengthening our efforts to involve more community members in reviewing policy documents and responding to requests-for-public comments on various issues. More importantly, the grant allows us to independently clarify the probable source, times, and degree of leaks from the plant and communicate this information to neighborhood residents and the EPA." *Puna Malama Pono, Inc., Pahoehoe, Hawaii.*

"We have noted a marked increase in public testimony of Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian people); and several testifiers have either during their testimony or during a break, commented that they attended the EPA-funded workshops and have used the workbooks they were given at the workshops." According to the grantee, "as a result of the comments received at the public meetings, a task force on implementing Native Hawaiian gathering rights completely revised their recommendations." *University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law, Manoa.*



*Environmental Health Coalition*

### **On leveraging other support...**

"The original EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant provided the seed money for our environmental justice community education and empowerment project, *Salud Ambiental, Latina Tomando Accion (SALTA, Environmental Health, Latinas Taking Action)*. As this project developed, we were able to secure additional funding from a wide variety of private foundations, including the James Irvine Foundation, to expand the training, the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation to distribute the training manual nationwide, and the California Endowment to hire five of the *Promotoras* as community organizers. In addition to receiving money directly, our work through the SALTA project contributed to the City of San Diego receiving \$100,000 from the EPA for a Brownfields project and allocating \$400,000 for the Community Development Block Grant funds to relocate chrome plating shops out of the residential neighborhood." *Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, California.*

"Receiving the grant from the EPA gave us an image of reliability and credibility within the community... In the last six months we were able to apply for and receive a small grant from a local community fund to help us in writing, duplicating, and mailing a short newsletter with information and updates about the air monitoring program and other environmental issues in the community." *Puna Malama Pono, Inc., Pahoehoe, Hawaii.*

"Our Lead Hazard Reduction Project touches a marginalized citizenship. We provide the only lead poisoning prevention program aimed specifically at Spanish speaking day laborers in the city of San Francisco. The environmental justice small grant money was used to start up the program and since then we have received two other grants to continue the lead program." *St. Peter's Housing Committee, San Francisco, California.*

"With support from the Environmental Justice Small Grant Program, *Lideras Campesinas* began as a project of the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation over six years ago and in the last two years has functioned as an independent non-profit organization." *Lideras Campesinas, Pomona, California.*

### **On raising awareness about environmental issues....**

"Urban Habitat Program's regional land use and sustainability framework provided connections between Brownfields and other environmental justice issues, including transportation and air quality, environmental health and lead issues, food security, and urban sprawl and inner city disinvestment." *Urban Habitat Program, San Francisco, California.*

"Urban gardening and environmental education became viable parts of conversations about improving the urban environment. Community gardens have made these issues common topics with policy leaders as well." *Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Los Angeles, California.*

"Working on this small grant project brought to light other environmental problems that we were not aware of. For example, when we did the air pollution tests we found an asphalt burner was responsible for creating most of the pollution, instead of the solid waste landfill as we had thought." *Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, Scottsdale, Arizona.*

## Progress on Goals of Executive Order #12898 on Environmental Justice

### Increased public participation and access to information (Section 5-5)

Ensuring that public documents, notices, and hearings relating to human health or the environment are concise, understandable (including translated as necessary) and readily accessible to the public is a basic tenet of the Executive Order. Indeed, many of EPA Region 9's small grants have been used to fund translation services for public meetings or health risk information or towards the production of multilingual outreach materials. These are some of the projects we have funded to increase public participation and access to information.<sup>1</sup>

- The El Pueblo Clinic in Tucson Arizona hired and trained 10 Spanish speaking residents as Community Health Advisors to implement the *Entre Nosotros* outreach program. These *promotoras* (community-based health educators), went door-to-door in the community adjacent to the Tucson International Airport Area Superfund Site working to educate families about potential environmental health risks from exposure to TCE, the primary toxic contaminant of concern to residents surrounding the Superfund site.

- *Kupa'a Mahope o ka Aina: Workbook for Environmental Justice for Native Hawaiians* outlines the major environmental laws that affect Native Hawaiians and provides guidance for Hawaiian communities that want to participate in the State's environmental decision-making process.
- A consortium of organizations met monthly and created *Building Upon Our Strength: A Community Guide to Brownfields Redevelopment in the San Francisco Bay Area*. The guide is a model for community participation in the Brownfields debate nationwide.
- Sonora Environmental Research Institute, Inc. in Tucson, Arizona produced and distributed bilingual educational materials about household hazardous materials to the schools and residents of Santa Cruz

County. These materials can be used in other Spanish or English speaking communities throughout the United States.

- In San Diego's Barrio Logan neighborhood, a small grant to the Environmental Health Coalition supported bilingual community workshops and training for 10 promotoras. The Promotoras participated in a series of meetings with local government officials who had formed a task force to investigate the impacts of mixed use zoning in their neighborhood. EHC provided simultaneous translation at the workshop and at local government task force hearings. Three of the Promotoras also won seats on the local redevelopment Project Area Committee (PAC). The Promotoras and their allies forced the first public election of members to the PAC in years and community attendance at the PAC meetings remains high. This was a major step in reclaiming the PAC from control by interests from outside the community.

### Subsistence consumption of Fish and Wildlife (Section 4-4)

Historically, there is a lack of consumption data on subsistence fishing or hunting populations in the United States. In addition, new immigrant communities are often not aware of the particular risks involved in consuming high levels of fish or wildlife in their new environment.

A priority in the Executive Order is to collect and analyze information on consumption patterns of people who rely principally on fish or wildlife for subsistence and to communicate to the public the risks of those consumption patterns. Unfortunately, scientists often have difficulty getting accurate information on consumption patterns of subsistence fishing populations because of language barriers or the reality that new immigrants often have a fear of government or unknown researchers. The following two projects illustrate how the work of public agencies can be improved significantly through partnerships with community based organizations:

- The Asian Pacific Environmental Network's (APEN) 'Richmond Laotian Fish Consumption Study' clearly demonstrated that communities and local residents can do good science — and contribute to environmental policy decisions that impact



<sup>1</sup>For a synopsis of any of these examples see Appendix A. Some of these projects are also featured in even greater detail under 'Success Stories.'



PODER

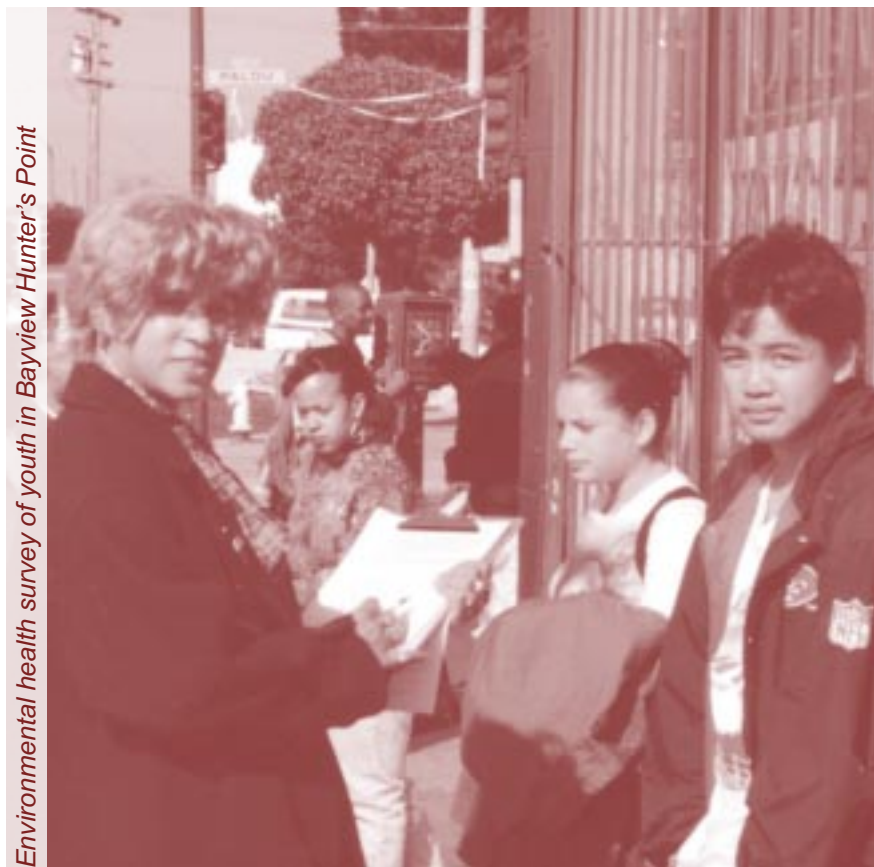
their lives. APEN worked with the local Laotian people to design and conduct a survey of fish consumption patterns of the larger Laotian community. Through this unique and truly community-based approach, including scientific peer review, APEN was able to get a very high response rate on their survey and an accurate assessment of the fish consumption levels of this community. The results of this survey are critical for a wide range of policy decisions, from fish advisories to water permits, and have already affected technical decisions and Clean Water Act Policy in Region 9.

- Save San Francisco Bay Association's Seafood Consumption Information Project developed multilingual outreach material aimed at educating subsistence fishing communities about the potential health risks of eating fish caught in San Francisco Bay. The organization distributed health warning brochures in Laotian, Vietnamese, Korean, Cambodian, Spanish and English, as well as a video showing step-by-step directions on how to prepare fish in ways that minimize health risks.

These projects demonstrated that community-based organizations, which often have the necessary trust and credibility with the community, can more effectively reach that community and produce reliable scientific results. These projects illustrated how the research capability, data, and expertise of community-based organizations and residents are critical for agencies to consider in order to make accurate and informed policy decisions.

### Human Health and the Environment (Section 3-30)

Another priority of the Executive Order is to include diverse segments of the population in clinical studies and research efforts, in providing education about multiple and cumulative exposures, and in informing people about potential risks.



Environmental health survey of youth in Bayview Hunter's Point





*Recent graduates from EHC's SALTA Program proudly display their diplomas.*

- A number of *promotoras* programs employed and trained Latina women to provide in-home education about environmental health risks specific to their communities. Grants to the Environmental Health Coalition, El Pueblo Clinic, California Institute of Rural Studies, La Clinica de la Raza, Project Concern International, and California Rural Legal Assistance supported outreach relating to health impacts from exposure to pesticides, household hazardous materials, toxic contamination of ground water, drinking water contamination or other specific health risks.
- The Environmental Health Coalition in San Diego proved that the *promotoras* model works. On a pre-training test evaluating their knowledge of environmental problems and how to participate in local government, more than half of the *promotoras* scored under 70% and only 10% scored over 90%. At the end of the program, the *promotoras'* scores improved 37.5% on average — all of them scored over 70%, and 80% scored over 90%!
- Asian Immigrant Women's Advocates provided environmental health information in several languages on protection from hazardous materials in the workplace. This effort has helped educate Asian women electronics workers about the particular environmental risks associated with their work.

While the work of some of the projects supported by EJ Grants can add new challenges for some of EPA's programs or those of other state or local agencies, EPA Region 9 recognizes the value of involving community-based organizations in defining solutions to complex policy issues. This unique program creates links between people who often have different perspectives not only on how to solve, but also on what constitutes, an environmental problem. With the help of these grants, communities define what they consider the priority environmental problems and participate in planning and implementing a solution.

#### *BorderLinks*



## Appendix A: Regional Environmental Justice Small Grant Projects, 1994 through 1998

For more information on any of these projects, call the organization directly or call the USEPA Region 9 Environmental Justice information line at 415/744-1565.

### Year 1: 1994-1995

#### 1. Asian Immigrant Women Advocates. Oakland, CA — \$5,000

Environmental Health and Safety Project of Asian Immigrant Women Electronics Assemblers. The project's ongoing environmental health and safety program includes newsletters, workshops, and training for these workers. The project provided environmental health information in several Asian languages and included tips on protection from hazardous materials in the workplace.

#### 2. California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLA). Sacramento, CA — \$5,000

Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment. The grant supported CRLA's farmworker education and the production of a newsletter, *Race, Poverty, and the Environment*, as well as a legal assistance network, an organizing group, and a worker's safety group. These groups provided technical and legal assistance, information on health and safety, and education on environmental hazards to low-income people and people of color.

#### 3. Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles. Los Angeles, CA — \$10,000

The Lead Poisoning Public Awareness Campaign worked to increase awareness of lead poisoning in low-income communities and communities of color. They distributed information about lead abatement and lead poisoning in the home and workplace to African-American and Latino organizations that provide childcare.

#### 4. Environmental Health Coalition (EHC). San Diego, CA — \$10,000

Latino Environmental Education Empowerment Project: Por La Vida Environmental Justice Workshops. EHC worked with the community group Por La Vida to host workshops that informed Latino communities in San Diego about environmental problems, health hazards, risk reduction, and pollution prevention in their neighborhoods. The project focused on training *consejeras* (Latina women in the community) to act as peer counselors and educators.

#### 5. Golden Gate University, School of Law. San Francisco, CA — \$4,500

Environmental Law and Justice Clinic: The Community Legal Education Project. The project employed students and faculty at the University's environmental law clinic to create the *Citizens' Guide to Enforcing Environmental Laws in California*. The guidebook explains how communities can play an active role in implementing state and federal environmental laws.

#### 6. The Ethnic Coalition of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA — \$6,000

Community Empowerment for Environmental Justice, Targeting People of Color in Greater Los Angeles and Surrounding Area. Low-income people and people of color were involved in the organizing and development of four community forums at which local public officials, business people, and residents discussed environmental problems and environmental justice in the Los Angeles area.

#### 7. University of Hawai'i, School of Law. Honolulu, HI — \$9,868

Kupa'a Mahope o ka Aina: Workbook for Environmental Justice for Native Hawai'ians. This project developed a workbook outlining state and federal lawmaking procedures that directly impact Hawai'i's environment. The workbook, which was designed to encourage involvement of Native Hawai'ians in decision making, was distributed at neighborhood workshops held on all of Hawai'i's main islands (see Success Stories).

### Year 2: 1995-1996

#### 1. Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN). Oakland, CA — \$20,000

Bay Area Seafood Consumption Study. APEN worked with other groups to form a collaboration between the African American and Laotian communities in Richmond, California. The groups evaluated existing outreach and education efforts relevant to contaminated fish (actual fishing and fish consumption habits) and shared information with fishers in both communities.

**2. African American Development Association, Inc. Oakland, CA — \$20,000**  
Lead Poisoning Reduction, Verdese Carter Park.

This project provided education to residents of Elmhurst, a predominantly African American and Latino community in Oakland. AADA provided workshops about environmental justice, lead exposure and lead hazard reduction in the home, as well as hazard maintenance equipment and supplies and home monitor and reevaluation logs.

**3. Arizona Department of Health Services Center for Minority Health. Phoenix, AZ — \$18,585**

Espectaculo Publico. The goal of this project was to motivate migrant and seasonal farmworkers and the general public in south-eastern Arizona to be more conscious of pesticide-provoked illnesses through an alternative education approach. An *espectáculo público* (a play) was written depicting a family learning to protect themselves from pesticide-related illnesses. It was performed by a local community theater group and is available as a Spanish-language picture book.

**4. California Institute for Rural Studies. Davis, CA — \$20,000**  
Environmental Justice Practice and Education for Farmworker communities. CIRS worked with other agencies and organizations to develop and implement a training program to certify promotoras as trainers of farmworkers in pesticide safety. The promotoras worked with neighbors and compadres/comadres to recognize health hazards from agricultural chemicals and poor sanitation.

**5. Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment (Diné CARE). Winslow, AZ — \$20,000**  
Recycling and Cleanup Program. Diné CARE, an all-Navajo community-based environmental organization, initiated a recycling and cleanup program for the Dilkon, Teesto and Seba Dalkai communities. The group presented informational workshops, established a recycling drop-off center, and taught about risk reduction and pollution prevention. (see Success Stories)

**6. Don't Waste Arizona/Diné Alliance. Phoenix/Winslow, AZ — \$20,000**  
Black Mesa Community Survey. The Diné Alliance, a Navajo grassroots organization,

worked with residents living near the Black Mesa Coal Mine to identify environmental concerns. The Alliance also conducted an Environmental Health Needs Assessment Survey and developed an outreach and training program.

**7. El Pueblo Clinic, TCE Program. Tucson, AZ — \$20,000**

"Is My Health at Risk Because of TCE?" The promotoras program trained volunteers in the community adjacent to the Tucson International Airport Area Superfund site. Volunteers conducted a door-to-door campaign seeking to increase the predominantly low-income Latino community's knowledge of TCE exposure, health issues, and health services available at El Pueblo Clinic. (El Pueblo Clinic's TCE program was established in 1994 to provide primary and specific TCE exposure-related health care to residents who might have been exposed to TCE from the Superfund Site.)

**8. Living is For Everyone (LIFE). Nogales, AZ — \$20,000**

Nogales Border Health and Environment Project. LIFE worked with other community groups to address the environmental health issues in this predominantly low-income Latino community on the U.S.-Mexico border. The project provided environmental health workshops, a quarterly bilingual newsletter, monthly lupus screening clinics, and outreach and case management services. LIFE worked with individual community members to strengthen their leadership skills and encouraged them to share their knowledge of local environmental health issues with friends and neighbors.

**9. Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee. National City, CA — \$20,000**

The Toxic Free Barrio Logan Campaign. combined the efforts of the Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee, the Environmental Health Coalition and the Mercado Apartments Tenants Association. The campaign provided basic environmental education to the 600 low income, predominantly Latino residents of the Mercado Apartments. Specific activities included a watershed protection workshop and establishing a Toxics Watch hotline and resource library.

**10. NACO Border Commerce. Naco, AZ — \$20,000**

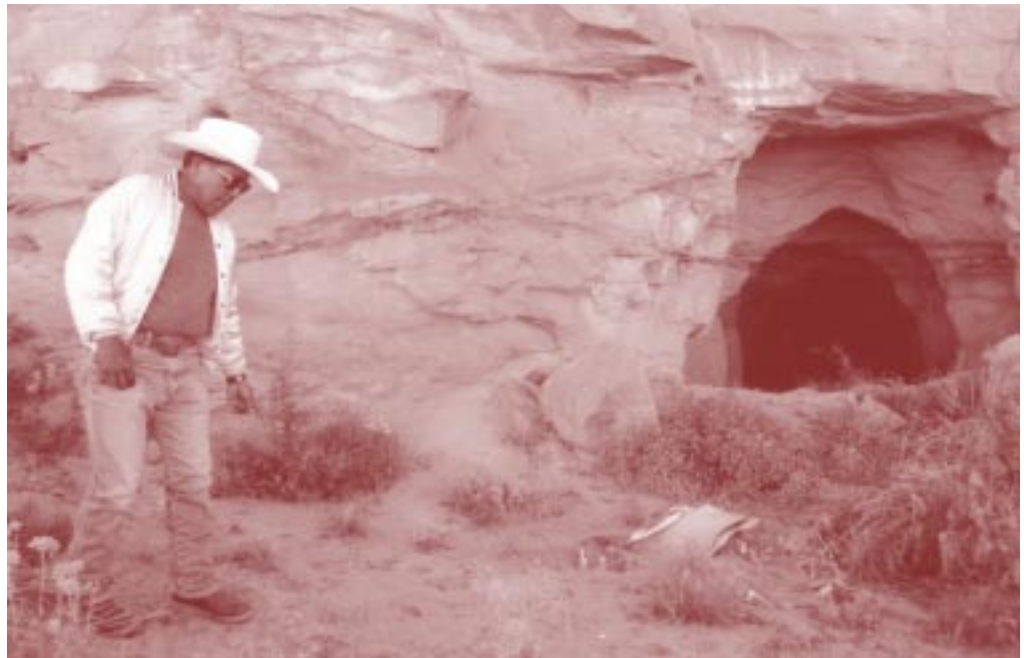
Naco Border Sanitation Study. This border sanitation project developed a strategy for collecting and treating wastewater to minimize environmental risk. A model agreement



between Naco, AZ, and the Sonoran government for collection and treatment of wastewater and a public awareness program were also developed.

**11. Pesticide Watch. San Francisco, CA — \$20,000**

The Community Coalition to End Pesticide Drift is made up of community groups working to protect their health and the environment from dangerous pesticide drift from adjacent agricultural fields. This project targeted rural, low-income communities and communities of color that are at risk for pesticide exposure. The project funded regional meetings, participation on a statewide agricultural urban interface task force, an informational hotline, and public service announcements.



*"For the younger generation to be aware [of the hazards of uranium mining]; it has to be taught to them and shown, so they can learn about it." Joe Ray Harvey, Cove, Arizona. From Memories Come to Us in the Rain and The Wind. Oral Histories and Photographs of Navajo Uranium Miners & Their Families. Photo by Doug Brugge.*

**12. Puna Malama Pono. Pahoa, HI — \$20,000**

Community Based Air Monitoring. This air toxics project trained local volunteers in the Puna District, a rural and predominantly low-income community, to monitor the air emissions from a local geothermal plant. A portable recording monitor was used to collect data on the emissions of hydrogen sulfide. The community worked with air toxics experts on training volunteers and maintaining the monitor.

**13. Ramona Gardens Resident Advisory Council. Los Angeles, CA — \$11,851**

Project Restore Ramona. This project familiarized residents of an East Los Angeles public housing complex with issues that affect their immediate environment. Tenants led the activities and materials were written in English and Spanish. The residents initiated an oil recycling program and cleaned up and restored neglected open spaces with sod and trees donated from local nurseries (see Success Stories).

**14. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Scottsdale, AZ — \$8,860**

The Community Environmental Awareness Demonstration Project helped focus the community on environmental responsibility. The tribe held an environmental priorities survey of

the community and several workshops designed to raise awareness. Key environmental issues identified by the community included hazardous waste transport, lead, radon, indoor air quality, water quality, and pollution prevention.

**15. Sierra Club. Los Angeles, CA — \$20,000**

Lead Poisoning Education Project. The Sierra Club worked with local environmental justice organizations to produce and distribute an educational video and pamphlets about the dangers of lead in the home and how to reduce exposure. The video is specific to the Los Angeles area and was distributed to severely affected low-income communities and communities of color.

**16. Tufts University, School of Medicine. Boston, MA — \$19,702**

Navajo Uranium Miner Oral History and Photography Project. Staff and volunteers conducted interviews, still photography, and video taped Navajo miners exposed to dangerous levels of radiation from the 1940's through the 1970's. They collected information in Shiprock, AZ and on the Navajo Nation. A traveling exhibit is now available.

### Year 3: 1996-1997

#### **1. Asian Immigrant Women Advocates. Oakland, CA — \$5,000**

Community and Workplace Risk Awareness Project for Asian Immigrant Women Electronics Assemblers. This grant helped strengthen the Environmental Health and Safety Project of Asian Immigrant Women Electronics Assemblers (see 1993-94). The project's environmental education program includes newsletters, workshops, and training for these workers. The project provided environmental health information in several Asian languages and included tips on protection from hazardous materials in the workplace.

#### **2. Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN). Oakland, CA — \$20,000**

Asian/Pacific Islander Fish Consumption Study. APEN worked with other community groups on fish consumption issues. The groups evaluated existing outreach and education efforts relevant to contaminated fish (actual fishing and fish consumption habits), shared appropriate information within the communities and improved outreach and education in these communities.

#### **3. Bernal Heights Housing Corporation. San Francisco, CA — \$20,000**

Lead Hazard Education and Prevention Project. Low-income parents in the Bernal Heights, outer Mission and Excelsior districts of San Francisco learned about lead poisoning and lead hazard prevention and reduction in their homes and workplaces. BHHC provided workshops, conferences, bilingual educational materials, and vouchers to check out an abatement vacuum from Cole Hardware in the community. The project included a partnership with Consumer Action, local churches, day care centers, libraries, local businesses, and other nonprofit organizations.

#### **4. California Rural Legal Assistance. Pomona, CA — \$19,980**

Environmental Justice Program in 12 Rural Communities in California. This grant funded initial efforts of the Farmworker Women's Leadership Project, *Líderes Campesinas*, which works with two hundred and fifty farmworker women representing twelve farmworker communities throughout California. The program trained farmworker women as certified pesticide educators and environmental health advocates.

#### **5. Chinatown Resource Center. San Francisco, CA — \$20,000**

Chinatown's Community Education on Lead Poisoning Program. The program targeted Chinese-speaking adults who care for children under the age of six in their homes. This population faces a great risk of lead poisoning because the housing stock is old, and caregivers are often not licensed and have not received training or information about lead poisoning. The community education and outreach was jointly conducted with education on seismic safety facilitated by CRC's AmeriCorps volunteers at buildings slated for seismic retrofitting.

#### **6. Environmental Health Coalition. San Diego, CA — \$20,000**

Toxic Free Barrio Logan Campaign. This program was a combined effort of EHC and the Mercado Apartments Tenants Association. The goal was to educate, empower and organize residents of Barrio Logan around environmental justice issues. The campaign motivated residents to participate in community decisions by conducting a community health survey and monthly environmental health updates at the Tenants Association meetings (see Success Stories).

#### **7. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. Phoenix, AZ — \$19,702**

Emergency and Community Right to Know Act Training for 8 Tribal Communities in Arizona. Tribes were given instruction and direct on-site technical assistance in coordinating a Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC) and for the development of an emergency response plan. ITCA conducted meetings with tribal community-based emergency response representatives, met with tribal leaders on emergency response priorities, and assisted the tribes in development of the plans.

#### **8. Los Angeles Conservation Corps. Los Angeles, CA — \$20,000**

Environmental Spark - Clean Water & Recycling Community Education Project. The goal of this project was to utilize the energy, creativity and community awareness of Conservation Corps members to carry environmental messages to their communities. Corps members worked with residents to create projects dealing with recycling, recycled oil, or storm drain dumping and involved community members in environmental cleanup and pollution prevention projects that Corps members do on an ongoing basis.

**9. Native Hawaiian Advisory Council.  
Honolulu, HI — \$20,000**

E Alu Like Mai I Ka Pono (Coming Together for Justice). This project was designed to educate Native Hawaiians on the legislative and administrative processes by which agencies make environmental decisions. Project participants prepared *E Alu Like Mai I Ka Pono: A Guidebook to Hawai'i's Legislative and Administrative Processes*. This was a joint project between the Native Hawaiian Advisory Council and the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii (see Success Stories).

**10. Paa Qavi, Incorporated. Hotevilla, AZ — \$20,000**

Used Oil Recycling Project. Before the project, the nearest proper oil disposal facility to Hotevilla was in Winslow, 70 miles away. Due to a high rate of used oil dumping on Hopi land, this project set up a nearby used oil recycling station. In addition, the project provided individuals, villages and local businesses with information about the possible hazards of improperly disposing of used oil and proper methods of disposal.

**11. Project Concern International. San Diego, CA — \$20,000**

Community-Based Hygiene Education and Water Purification Program. Project Concern worked with Vista Community Clinic to increase understanding of environmental sanitation, demonstrate simple low-cost techniques for water storage and disinfection, and improve hygiene-related behaviors among migrant workers in northern San Diego County.

**12. San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners. San Francisco, CA — \$20,000**

Environmental Justice Youth Leadership Program. The purpose of this program is to develop effective youth leaders and activists who will use their newly acquired skills and knowledge to help educate the Bayview-Hunter's Point community around environmental justice issues. In addition, these youth will encourage friends, family, and neighbors to participate in workshops that address environmental issues in the Bayview-Hunter's Point area (see Success Stories).

**13. Save San Francisco Bay Association. Oakland, CA — \$20,000**

Seafood Consumption Information Project (SCIP). This project developed and implemented a community education program that effectively educated and trained subsistence fishing communities in San Francisco, Solano, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Marin counties about how to minimize health risks associated with Bay seafood consumption. A video, educational brochures and poster about safe seafood consumption were also published.

**14. West County Toxics Coalition. Richmond, CA — \$20,000**

Lead Contamination Project (LCP) was established to research the extent of lead poisoning in housing in West Contra Costa County and to facilitate the development of strategies to address the problem through community awareness, outreach and advocacy. LCP educated citizens and community-based organizations about the nature of lead poisoning, the need for testing and home screening, as well as preventative measures and resources for dealing with the problem.

*The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners in action*





## Year 4: 1997-1998

### 1. African American Development Association (AADA). Oakland, CA — \$19,000

Defensible Space Assessment (DSA). AADA, in collaboration with the city of Oakland's Office of Emergency Services, identified where hazardous materials are stored or transported in West Oakland and therefore where a need for community training and education exists. Community members were trained in toxics and hazardous materials to ensure a safe and predictable response in the event of a chemical spill. This project included a geographic assessment of current land uses, GIS mapping of West Oakland, and development of a transportation hazard assessment report (see Success Stories).

### 2. Ammonia Safety & Training Institute. Watsonville, CA — \$20,000

Ammonia Safety Workshops. The Ammonia Safety & Training Institute provided four-hour workshops to public and private stakeholders in Stockton, Bakersfield, Las Vegas and Phoenix. The workshops were intended to enhance communication between public and private sectors in the event of an ammonia incident and to increase community awareness of ammonia safety.

### 3. City of Oakland, Fire Services Agency. Oakland, CA — \$20,000

Hazardous Materials Awareness and Educational Program. The Fire Services Agency of the City of Oakland expanded its neighborhood training program, Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE), to include a hazardous materials and community-right-to-know component. The CORE project, in collaboration with the African American Development Association, aims to foster greater understanding and a spirit of cooperation between government, local community based organizations, environmental advocacy groups, and the local citizenry (see Success Stories).

### 4. Communities for a Better Environment (CBE). Los Angeles, CA — \$20,000

The LA CAUSA Student Initiative aimed to develop environmental leadership among youth by engaging high school students at Huntington Park High School in classroom education and site-specific campaigns on environmental problems in southeast Los Angeles. Students were taught a variety of skills, including air monitoring, computer research and data analysis. Additionally, students conducted various outreach efforts, including community workshops, presentations and a citywide conference (see Success Stories).

### 5. Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles. Los Angeles, CA — \$20,000

Concerned Citizens, in collaboration with Los Angeles Metropolitan Network of Churches, developed a campaign to clean up toxic waste in South Central Los Angeles. The campaign included community outreach efforts, promoting cancer tests for residents, recruiting health specialists to assist in developing a strategy to address health risks, and meeting with local and state officials to develop an effective cleanup schedule for the contaminated sites.

### 6. Don't Waste Arizona/Concerned Residents of South Phoenix. Phoenix, AZ — \$19,900

Environmental Justice Newsletter & Hotline for Residents of South Phoenix. Since a 1992 industrial fire, DWA, Inc. has been active in educating the community about environmental health and environmental justice issues. The newsletter provided general and technical information to affected residents about the environmental issues related to the fire and the environmental justice resources available to the community.



Antonio Diaz, PODER

**7. Hualapai Tribe. Peach Springs, AZ — \$20,000**

Used Oil Recycling Project. The Hualapai Department of Public Services established a used oil pickup and drop-off service, as well as 55-gallon temporary storage drums located throughout the reservation. The project included generating a bimonthly newsletter informing the community about recycling facility programming, setting up community presentations and improving access to the resource library at the local Transfer & Recycling Center. The long-term goal of the project is to protect the environment and natural habitat for current and future generations through a preventative pollution plan (see Success Stories).

**8. La Clinica de la Raza - Fruitvale Health Project, Inc. Oakland, CA — \$20,000**

Lead Poisoning Education Project. This project focused on the communities of Fruitvale and San Antonio, two multicultural districts within the City of Oakland. The goal of the project was to build community-based leadership to help empower residents to address lead exposure in their community. The project trained community members as Health Educators through its *Escuela Para Promotoras*, provided information and education on lead poisoning and the resources available to the community through the *Casa en Casa* model.

**9. National Council of Negro Women, Inc. San Fernando Valley Chapter. Sylmar, CA — \$16,500**

Radon and Indoor Air Pollution Project. This project was designed to reduce the public health risks of radon and indoor air contamination by conducting and distributing 1,000 radon test kits in the San Fernando Valley. One goal of the project was to help institutionalize radon testing of homes and buildings by developing strategies with key segments of the community including real estate businesses, government officials, public health officials, and school organizations (See Success Stories).

**10. People United to Demand Environmental Rights (PODER). San Francisco, CA — \$20,000**

Environmental Justice Empowerment Project. PODER, in collaboration with the Chinese Progressive Association, sought to improve communication between affected low income communities of color in San Francisco. The project focused on working with residents of the Mission District and Chinatown communities to assess and prioritize their environmental

justice concerns. The project included community outreach efforts, research and the creation of educational materials. They developed a campaign plan to address the identified environmental justice concerns and conduct environmental summits for grassroots organizations in these low-income communities.

**11. Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians. Ukiah, CA — \$20,000**

Community Education and Planning Project. The Tribe was concerned about the impacts of past land use decisions on the current siting of operations which can present environmental hazards within and near the Pinoleville Indian Reservation. A Restoration/Remediation Strategy for Ackerman Creek was developed through this project. The Tribe worked closely with the Mendocino Environmental Center and technical experts who provided specific information to help build a broader understanding of the environmental justice issues affecting the community. The project included community workshops to organize and inform community members (see Success Stories).

**12. Pre-School Coordinating Council, Inc. Pittsburgh, CA — \$20,000**

Lead Poisoning Prevention for Low-Income Minority Families. The project focused on childhood lead poisoning in this low income community. The Coordinating Council determined the number of people in the targeted community capable of job-related, take-home lead exposure. They educated employers and workers in these lead-related businesses, informed families in at-risk residences about lead poisoning prevention, and increased the number of children screened for lead poisoning.

**13. Puna Malama Pono, Inc. Pahoa, HI — \$20,000**

Air Pollution Monitoring Project. This community air pollution monitoring project established a mechanism to respond to health concerns related to emissions from a geothermal electric generating facility. Project participants monitored and recorded air emissions using an air pollution monitoring device and trained community volunteers to conduct random air emission monitoring using global positioning and air monitoring devices. The project sought ultimately to reduce the environmental and health impacts related to toxic air pollution by including community members, concerned health professionals, and government officials in air monitoring solutions.



Memories Come to Us in the Rain and The Wind. Oral Histories and Photographs of Navajo Uranium Miners & Their Families. Photo by Doug Brugge.

**14. St. Peter's Housing Committee. San Francisco, CA — \$19,500**

Lead Poisoning Outreach and Education.

The project's goal was to improve lead safety and prevent lead poisoning among low-income and monolingual Spanish-speaking tenants and workers in San Francisco's Mission District. The project utilized the Lead Safe Housing Advocacy Program, which assisted tenants in assessing and reducing lead hazards in their homes before poisoning occurs, and the Lead Safe Work Program, which addressed lead exposure caused by housing renovation and maintenance that disturbs lead-based paint.

**15. Sonora Environmental Research Institute, Inc. Tucson, AZ — \$19,973**

Household Hazardous Material Bilingual Education Materials Project.

Sonora Environmental Research Institute, Inc. developed and distributed active learning workbooks to schools and the general public in English and Spanish. The project incorporated workshops for teachers to enhance general and technical understanding of hazardous materials and included outreach to parents and residents through environmental forums and events.

**16. Urban Habitat Program, San Francisco, CA — \$20,000**

Brownfields Environmental Justice Working Group.

The central goal of this project is to ensure that community activists in the Bay Area are at the table in the design and implementation of Brownfield redevelopment projects and that the Principles of Environmental Justice are incorporated into Brownfields projects at the policy and project

level. Urban Habitat convened meetings in order to share information, to develop collaborative community led efforts and to get status reports on the Pilot Project taking place in the Bay Area. They also developed and published *Building Upon Our Strengths, A Community Guide to Brownfields Redevelopment in the San Francisco Bay Area* (see Success Stories).

**Year 5: 1998-1999**

**1. Diné Care, Inc. Winslow, AZ — \$20,000**

Education on the Causes and Effects of Radiation Exposure on Health, Welfare, and the Environment. The Northern Arizona Navajo Down Winders Committee held community forums at local service centers and Chapter Houses to discuss effects of over 1200 abandoned mines on Navajo land. The forums incorporated traditional perspectives on teaching indigenous people and translations of technical language and concepts into Navajo. Through this combination of culturally appropriate methods, this organization hoped the community would be able discuss traditionally taboo subjects relating to sickness and death.

**2. BorderLinks. Tucson, AZ — \$19,700**

Developing Grass-Roots Leaders in Response to Cross-Border Environmental Crisis. Local community leaders in Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora, participated in four weekend workshops focusing on environmental problems associated with waste disposal in the Nogales Wash, which runs south to north through both cities. BorderLinks hoped participants would also learn to recognise other environmental problems, gain a better understanding of relevant laws, and learn how to work together to address the problems. The project was done in cooperation with local health clinics, local environmental groups, and members of the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ).

**3. El Festival del Pueblo de Monterey. Seaside, CA — \$16,000**

Pesticide Use and Regulation in Monterey County Schools. Tourism and agriculture, the leading industries in Monterey County, are significant users of pesticides and employ primarily low income, particularly Spanish-speaking, individuals. In addition, Monterey



County Schools do not have guidelines in place on pesticide use. Community members are concerned that minority children and youth and their families in Monterey County are at high risk of exposure to pesticides. This grant helped the Monterey Bay Spanish Speaking Indian Council distribute information to teachers and parents on pesticide use in the workplace and helped institute a dialogue with the school district on the need for reducing the use of pesticides in areas where small children routinely play.

**4. Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo. San Luis Obispo, CA — \$20,000**

Farmworker Safety Initiative. ECOSLO will work to minimize environmental health risks facing farmworkers and to facilitate and improve communication and coordination among the county's environmental health stakeholders and farmworker support groups. Surveys of farmworkers and their families will provide new information to regulatory officials, public agencies, and non-profit service organizations on household hazardous materials and pesticide use.

**5. Greater Bakersfield Community Housing Resources Board. Bakersfield, CA — \$20,000**

Kern County Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition. This project expanded public health education and community outreach activities on environmental lead to low income and minority families with children. Free swab testing and free capillary blood testing were provided to residents. In addition, neighborhood leaders such as teachers, clergy, and community association members were trained to instruct residents to test their households (including possibly contaminated items and cookery) for lead content, as well as preventative healthcare and post-poisoning follow-up.

**6. Hawai'i's Thousand Friends. Honolulu, HI — \$20,000**

Oahu Environmental Justice Project. This project worked to improve communication and opportunities for collaboration between mainstream environmental groups, Native Hawai'ians and lower income residents, and local decision makers within the City and County of Honolulu. Workshops focused on the decision making process of the State Legislature, City and County Council, and other agencies. The priority was to assist Native Hawai'ian and low-income residents in understanding local decision-making processes, in monitoring and evaluating local land use proposals, and in strengthening their voices in

the decisions that impact their lives and culture.

**7. Imperial Valley College. Imperial , CA — \$20,000**

New River/New Hope. The New River, which flows from Mexicali, Mexico, north through Imperial County, winds through low income residential and agricultural areas to the Salton Sea and is one of the most important flyways in North America for migratory birds. Workshops provided high school and community college teachers with curriculum on water pollution and solid waste issues, integrating lectures, field trips, and job shadowing into the programs geared toward the mostly low-income population of Hispanic farmworkers and their children. Students monitored New River water and research ponding techniques and bio remediation as a ways to address agricultural runoff and other pollution. It was hoped that learning these "real world" procedures would provide minority students with skills to apply to careers in environmental management.

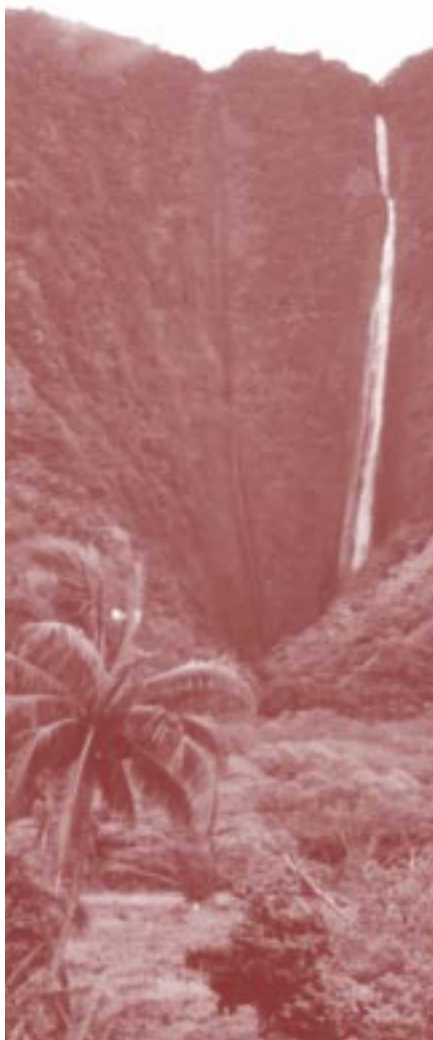
**8. Los Angeles Educational Partnership and Pacoima Beautiful. Los Angeles, CA — \$19,970**

Bilingual, Community-Based Effort to Control Toxic Dumping. Community-based education, advocacy, monitoring, and clean-up efforts are critical to eliminating environmental abuses in Pacoima. Community members were trained to become inspectors on watch for illegal dumping of waste in their communities. Pacoima Beautiful worked to encouraging residents to be proactive with environmental problems, to get involved in planning and implementing regular cleanup days in neighborhoods, and to develop projects to "green" local schools.

**9. Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation and Colony. Fallon, NV — \$19,113**

Solid Waste Disposal and Water Issues: A Fallon Tribal Environmental Justice Project. The relationship between the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe's solid waste disposal lagoon system and the groundwater and water delivery system on the tribe's reservation is not known. The lagoon system is within five feet of the groundwater level and was less than a 1/4 mile from the main water delivery system on the tribe. This project allowed the tribe to study the situation, to correct any potential problems, and to educate the tribal residents about how the lagoon system could impact their water quality.

*Waipi'o Valley  
Stream Restoration  
Project Hi'ilawe Falls*



**10. People United for A Better Oakland (PUEBLO). Oakland, CA — \$20,000**  
Strategic Action for Environmental Health (SAFE HEALTH). Residents of East Oakland were concerned about the proximity of a large residential neighborhood to environmental toxins resulting from a concentration of industrial and commercial facilities, railroad tracks, and a major freeway. SAFE HEALTH addressed the broad-scale pollution of the environment by training community members to document sources of potential pollution, to prioritize their concerns about the greatest environmental health threats, and to partner with government in assuring that adequate emergency response systems are in place and public health needs are being met.

**11. People's Community Organization for Reform and Employment (People's CORE). Los Angeles, CA — \$19,940**  
Pesticide Research and Education Project. Residents in two multicultural communities in Los Angeles were concerned that the health risk of pesticide exposure is worse for children attending schools located in areas where refineries, chemical plants and smog contribute to high levels of air pollution. People's CORE determined the scope of pesticide use in seven schools in Carson and five schools in other parts of the City of Los Angeles by requesting, reviewing, and analyzing monthly pesticide use reports. Presentations and workshops were coordinated with teachers, parents and school administrators to share information on pesticide use in the schools and identify ways to limit children's exposure to pesticides and other toxic substances.

**12. San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc. Pacoima, CA — \$19,344**  
Val Verde Environmental Justice Education and Outreach Project. *Lucha Ambiental de la Comunidad Hispana* (LACH) is an informal group of low-income Latino residents of Val Verde that formed in 1995 in response to concerns about the possible adverse health effects of a landfill in their community. This grant helped LACH educate the community through bimonthly meetings, a bilingual environmental newsletter, and providing training for members on effective communication skills, working with environmental data, and developing and implementing action plans.

**13. San Jose State University Foundation. San Jose, CA — \$20,000**  
Toxics in the 'Hood. This project provides residents of Richmond, California with accurate environmental monitoring data. Community workshops focus on dispelling myths about 'toxics' and 'environmental racism' and train community members to find information about toxics. The target audience is low-income minority residents living near Superfund sites in Richmond, California.

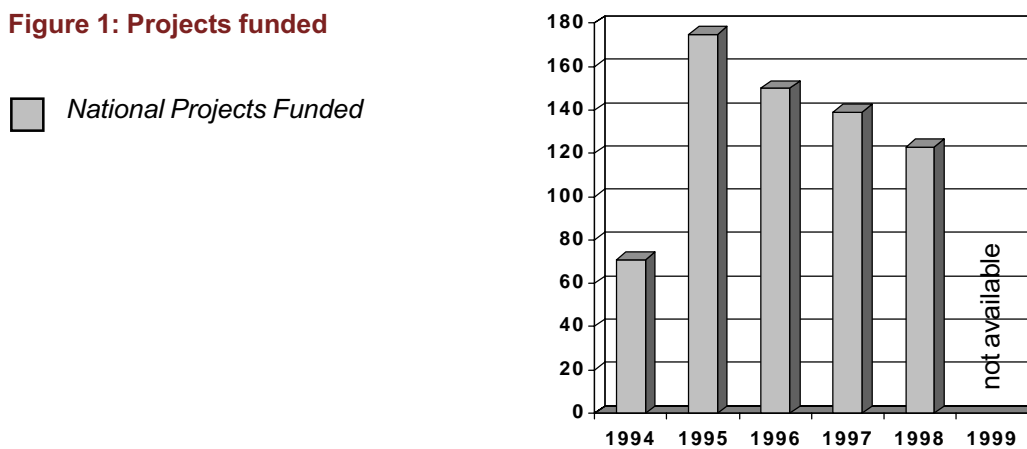
**14. Waipi'o Valley Community Association. Honoka'a, HI — \$19,500**  
Waipi'o Valley Stream Restoration Project. Waipi'o Valley is an agricultural area with a high percentage of low income and Native Hawai'iian residents who farm, fish and gather food from streams and the ocean. This very local project will monitor and survey streams in order to support stream restoration in the Waipi'o watershed on the island of Hawai'i. The project addresses ongoing environmental justice issues related to water allocations, shortages and pollution, conflicts over riparian and Native Hawai'iian rights, and environmental and public health risks in rural communities.

**15. Walker River Paiute Tribe. Shurz, NV — \$19,950**  
Environmental Assessment of DOD Sites. The tribe will assess the scope of environmental damage caused by ordnance contamination from naval aircraft bombing on the reservation. They will research land contamination, ordnance solid wastes, and risks and effects on human health. This information will aid tribal leaders in the decision-making process and improve communication with the U.S. Department of Defense. The project will also include outreach and education workshops for community residents on potential underground hazards.

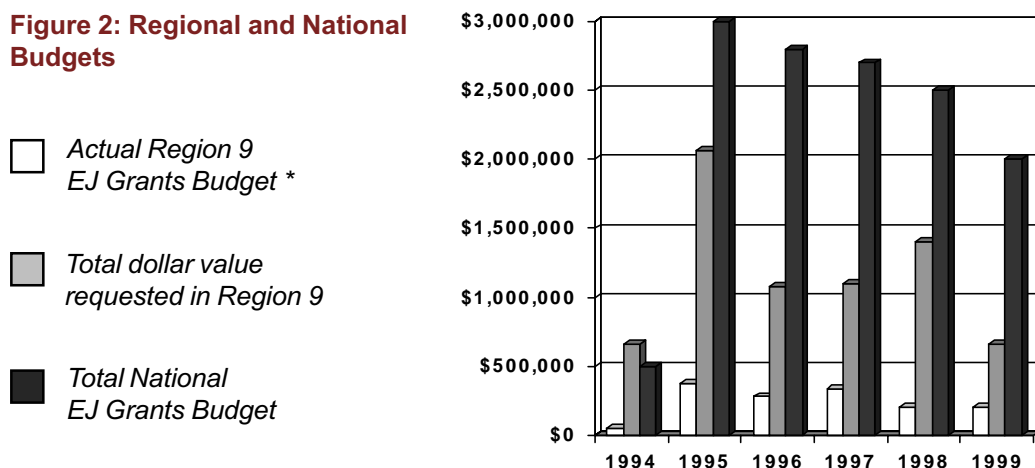
## APPENDIX B: National and Regional Budget Summary

Despite its limited budget, the Region 9 Environmental Justice Small Grant program has directly benefitted communities impacted by environmental problems and has resulted in tangible improvements.

**Figure 1: Projects funded**

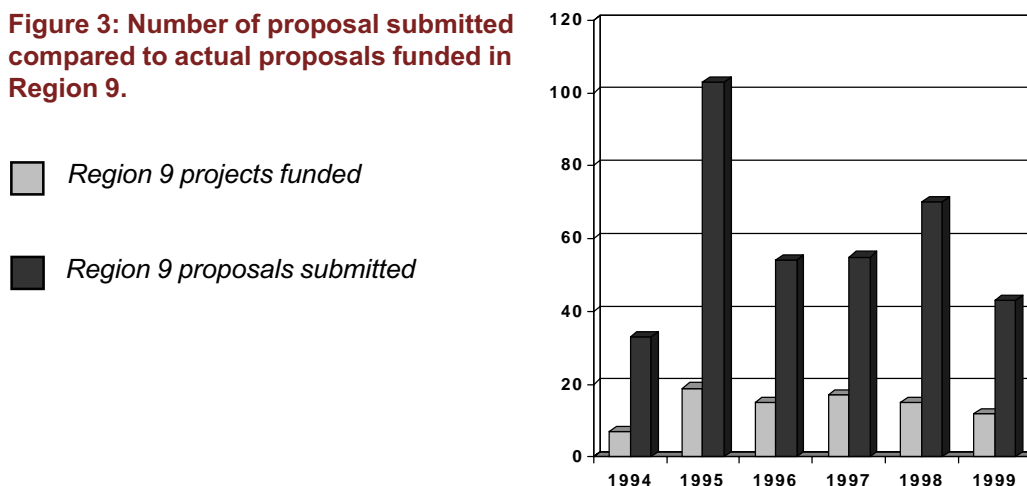


**Figure 2: Regional and National Budgets**



\*Total amount of awards in Region 9 was greater than the national average because additional funding was available from the EPA regions that did not award their allotted budgets.

**Figure 3: Number of proposal submitted compared to actual proposals funded in Region 9.**

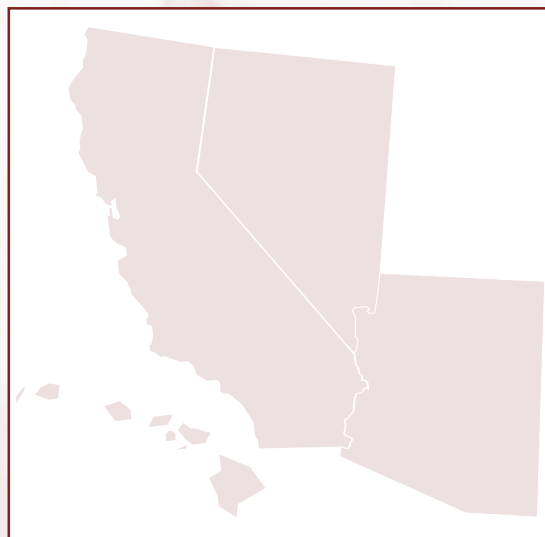


Each year communities throughout the Region that have developed innovative ideas for addressing their local environmental problems submit proposals to this program. Unfortunately, because of the limited amount of funding, we are only able to fund a small portion of these projects.



**Highlighting Success** was prepared by the EPA Region 9 Environmental Justice Team. The following individuals and organizations responded to the survey and shared personal experience, opinions and insight into the small grant program:

California Institute for Rural Studies, Davis, California (FY95)  
El Pueblo Clinic, TCE Program, Tucson, Arizona (FY95)  
Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, California (FY94, FY96, FY97)  
Golden Gate University, School of Law, San Francisco, California (FY94)  
Hualapai Tribe, Peach Springs, Arizona (FY97)  
Los Angeles Conservation Corp, Los Angeles, California (FY96)  
Native Hawaiian Advisory Council, Honolulu, Hawaii (FY96)  
Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians, Ukiah, California (FY97)  
Puna Malama Pono, Inc, Pahoa, Hawaii (FY95, FY97)  
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, Scottsdale, Arizona (FY95)  
Sierra Club, Los Angeles, California (FY95)  
Sonora Environmental Research Institute, Inc., Tucson, Arizona (FY97)  
St. Peter's Housing Committee, San Francisco, California (FY97)  
Tufts University, School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts (FY95)  
University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law, Manoa, Hawaii (FY94)





Progress reports were reviewed for projects completed by the following organizations:

African American Development Association, Oakland, California (FY97, FY95)  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Oakland, California (FY96, FY95)  
Asian Immigrant Women's Advocates, Oakland, California (FY96, FY94)  
BorderLinks, Tucson, Arizona (FY98)  
California Rural Legal Assistance, Pomona, California (FY96)  
Chinatown Resource Center, San Francisco, California (FY96)  
Communities for a Better Environment, Los Angeles, California (FY97)  
Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, Arizona (Dine Care) (FY95, FY98)  
Don't Waste Arizona/Diné Alliance, Winslow, Arizona (FY95, FY97)  
Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, California (FY94, FY96, FY97)  
Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee, National City, California (FY95)  
National Council of Negro Women, Sylmar, California (FY97)  
Ramona Gardens Resident Advisory Council, Los Angeles, California (FY95)  
San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners, San Francisco, California (FY96)  
Save San Francisco Bay Association, Oakland, California (FY96)  
Urban Habitat Program, San Francisco, California (FY97)

US Environmental Protection Agency Publication #909-R-99-002. Highlighting Success: The Region 9 Environmental Justice Small Grant Program

